

A NEW SPECIES OF *ALLIUM* (LILIACEAE) FROM NUEVO LEON, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Allium*, *A. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, is described from the pine-oak woodlands of southern Nuevo León. It is seemingly most closely related to *A. glandulosum* but is markedly distinct by its robust habit, large solitary ovoid bulbs, very broad leaves (6-15 mm wide) and larger floral parts.

KEY WORDS: Liliaceae, *Allium*, México

Routine identification of Mexican plants has revealed the following novelty, this being only the second species of *Allium* to be described from México over the past 20 years, the last being *A. stoloniferum* Ownbey & Jacobson (Jacobson 1979).

***Allium hintoniorum*** B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Iturbide, La Purisima to Bella Vista, oak-pine woodlands, 1400 m, 6 Sep 1991, *Hinton et al.* 21444 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

*Allio glanduloso* Link & Otto similis sed plantis robustioribus (plerumque 60-80 cm altis vs. 20-50 cm) foliis latioribus planioribus (plerumque 6-15 mm latis vs. 1-4 mm latis linearibusque), bulbis ovoideis rhizomata consociata carentibus, et tepalis plerumque roseis multo majoribus differt.

Robust herbs 40-60 cm high. Bulb ovoid, solitary, ca. 2.5 cm diameter (pressed), 3-4 cm high, rhizomes absent, outer coats brownish, membranous, obscurely striate. Leaves 4-8, flattened, 30-60 cm long, 6-15 mm wide, glabrous, in length equal to or exceeding the scapes. Scapes solitary, stout, terete, glabrous, 30-40 cm long, 2-4 mm across (excluding wings), clearly winged for 1/2 its length or more. Spathe conspicuous, membranous, white,

10-20 mm high, splitting at maturity into 2 or more reflexed bracts. Umbel with 20-38 flowers, the pedicels  $\pm$  green and persistent. Stamens somewhat shorter than the perianth; filaments separate to the base, anthers 1.5-2.0 mm long, pinkish. Ovary glabrous, crestless, or seemingly so; style filiform, shorter than the perianth; stigma minutely capitate. Capsule 2.5-3.0 mm high, 3.5-4.5 mm wide, glabrous, crestless. Seeds (immature) 1-2 to each locule.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMENS EXAMINED: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Aramberri, La Escondida, 1820 m, 20 Jul 1993, *Hinton et al.* 29057 (TEX). Mpio. Montemorelos, E slope of Sierra de la Cebolla, pine-oak woodlands, 21 Aug 1939, *C.H. Müller 2933* (LL). Mpio. Zaragoza, Cerro El Viejo, pine-oak woodlands, 2060 m, 28 Jul 1993, *Hinton et al.* 29216 (TEX).

The Müller collection, cited immediately above, is atypical in being a relatively nonrobust plant with smaller flowers than the other specimens. My ex mentor and well-known expert on *Allium*, Marion Ownbey of WS examined the sheet in 1948 and appended a note on the specimen that reads:

I don't know this. Habitally, it resembles *A. Plummerae* of southern Arizona and adjacent México, but the ovary appears crestless, and there is no evidence of anastomosing fibers in that part of the leaf bases preserved. Besides lacking the bulb, the specimen apparently was killed in boiling water before pressing which always results in the loss of important diagnostic characters. Possibly it is *A. glandulosum* Link & Otto, but one would have to have better material to be sure.

Subsequently, T. Jacobson, while a student at Washington State University, annotated the sheet (1978) as *Allium glandulosum* Link & Otto, which it does not appear to be, the latter having quite different bulbs (globose vs. ovoid), well-developed rhizomes, and markedly narrower leaves, etc. Müller noted the plant to be "So abundant throughout the pine oak and oak fir forest on the east slope that the Sierra was named for it."

It is a pleasure to name this remarkably distinct species for the renowned Hinton family. The extant son and grandson (Jaime and George, respectively) of the late G.B. Hinton have added greatly to our knowledge of the flora of the rugged Sierra Madre Oriental of northeastern México.

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## LITERATURE CITED

- Jacobson, T.D. 1979. A new species of *Allium* (Liliaceae). *Brittonia* 31:413-415.